REMARKS

Claims 11-13 are pending. Claims 11-13 and 18 have been amended. The amendments are supported in the Specification as filed at least on page 11, line 17 – page 13, line 5 and FIGS. 4-7. Claims 19-20 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. The rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments and following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Nulman et al.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nulman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,915) (hereinafter "Nulman").

In FIG. 1, Nulman discloses a "flange 66 for welding the roll over valve 60 to the outermost layer 24 of the fuel tank wall 12" wherein the flange 66 contains only a layer of HDPE and does not contain an acetal layer, which acts as a hydrocarbon barrier layer (Nulman, col.2, lines 60-62, col.3, lines 8-10; FIG. 1). In FIG. 2, Nulman discloses a "polyethylene overmolding 116" that includes "an overmolded flange portion 116a to surround the acetal portion 104" at the interface to the tank wall 12 (Nulman, col.3, lines 49-67; FIG. 2). Thus, Nulman discloses that the acetal portion, which is surrounded by the HDPE overmolding 116, does not and is not intended to engage or contact the tank wall 12.

Furthermore, Nulman discloses that acetal core 101 (i.e., a gasoline barrier layer) projects beyond polyethylene overmolding 116 (i.e., a weldable plastic material) (Nulman, FIG. 2) and not that a weldable plastic material projects beyond a gasoline barrier layer.

In contrast, amended Claim 11 recites a "component part adapted to be fitted in an opening provided in a plastic fuel tank main body . . ., said component part comprising . . . a first part made of gasoline barrier material ... and a second part made of weldable plastic material provided in a peripheral part of said component part . . . , said first and second parts disposed concentrically one next to the other in said peripheral part of said component part, wherein said first part defines an end surface to be engaged with said outer layer of said fuel tank main body when said component part is fitted in said opening, said second part in said peripheral part projecting slightly beyond said end surface of said first part and exposing said

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP
2402 MICHELSON DR.
SUITE 210
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049

end surface of said first part, so that said exposed end surface of said first part contacts said outer layer of said plastic fuel tank main body when said second part is welded to said outer layer of said plastic fuel tank main body," in addition to other limitations. Thus, because Nulman does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of Claim 11, Claim 11 is patentable over Nulman.

Claims 12-13 are dependent on Claim 11 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from Nulman. Therefore, Claims 12-13 are allowable over Nulman for at least the same reasons provided above with respect to Claim 11.

Suzuki et al.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,305,568 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "Suzuki I") or Japanese reference JP 2001-113963 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter "Suzuki II").

Suzuki I and II disclose an auxiliary component 6 (including a fuel permeation preventing layer 8), which is welded to the tank main body 1 at a welded portion 10.

Neither Suzuki I nor II disclose or suggest a peripheral part of a component part in which a first part made of gasoline barrier material and a second part made of weldable plastic material are disposed concentrically one next to the other. FIG. 2 only illustrates a hypothetical example upon fitting of a component part in a tank hole "when the boss portion 9 is press fitted in the component attaching hole 5 . . . as shown in a left-half portion of FIG. 2, the extending portion 8a of the fuel permeation preventing layer may [ ] fracture . . . ." (Suzuki I, col.2, lines. 52-55), and thus does not illustrate a component part with a gasoline barrier material and a weldable plastic material disposed adjacent to each other in a peripheral part.

Furthermore, neither Suzuki I nor II disclose or suggest a component structure wherein the weldable plastic material projects beyond the fuel permeation preventing layer 8 at a location to interface with the tank main body.

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2402 MICHELSON DR.
SUITE 210
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049

In contrast, amended Claim 11 recites "component part adapted to be fitted in an opening provided in a plastic fuel tank main body . . ., said component part comprising . . . a first part made of gasoline barrier material ... and a second part made of weldable plastic material provided in a peripheral part of said component part . . . , said first and second parts disposed concentrically one next to the other in said peripheral part of said component part, ... said second part in said peripheral part projecting slightly beyond said end surface of said first part and exposing said end surface of said first part," in addition to other limitations. Thus, because Suzuki I and II do not disclose or suggest all of the elements of Claim 11, Claim 11 is patentable over Suzuki I and II.

Claims 12-13 are dependent on Claim 11 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from Suzuki I and II. Therefore, Claims 12-13 are allowable over Suzuki I and II for at least the same reasons provided above with respect to Claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2402 MICHELSON DR.
SUITE 210
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nulman or Suzuki I or Suzuki II in view of Hyde et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,139,043) (hereinafter "Hyde").

Hyde does not remedy the deficiencies of Nulman, Suzuki I, or Suzuki II noted above. In particular, Hyde does not disclose or suggest a structure wherein a weldable plastic material projects beyond a fuel permeation preventing layer at a location to interface with a tank main body.

In contrast, amended Claim 18 recites a "component part adapted to be fitted in an opening provided in a plastic fuel tank main body . . ., said component part comprising . . . a first part made of gasoline barrier material ... and a second part made of weldable plastic material provided in a peripheral part of said component part . . . said second part in said peripheral part projecting slightly beyond said end surface of said first part and exposing said end surface of said first part," in addition to other limitations. Thus, because Nulman, Suzuki I, Suzuki II, and Hyde do not disclose or suggest all of the elements of Claim 18, Claim 18 is patentable over the cited references.

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2402 MICHELSON DR.
SUITE 210
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe pending Claims 11-13 and 18 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the Application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is hereby requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date stated below.

Fax. No. 571-273-8300

Tina Kavanaugh July 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Park
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 52,094

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPHERSON KWOK
CHEN & HEID LLP

2402 MICHELSON DR.
SUITE 210
IRVINE, CA 92612
(949) 752-7040
FAX (949) 752-7049